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A COUNTRY WITHOUT STRIKES. By Henry Demarest Lloyd. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co. 12 mo., cloth, 183 pages.

The next best thing to visiting New Zealand and examining on the ground the workings of the compulsory arbitration law which has been in force there since January, 1895, is the study of this book by Mr. Lloyd. Indeed, for many persons, the book will be much better than a visit, for Mr. Lloyd's examination of the workings of the law was that of a sympathetic expert who knew how to look. The work is interesting from beginning to end. It goes into detail sufficiently to give life, but not enough to become wearisome. General principles are discussed, but continually from the point of view of actual conditions and results. The origin of the law, the woeful conditions which preceded its enactment, the objections to it, its imperfections in practice, the improvements found necessary, its effect in securing the wider extension of labor unions, the entire absence of strikes and lockouts under its operation, the general improvement in the condition of laborers, the prosperity of capital, the constitution of the Boards of Conciliation and of the Court of Arbitration, the method of conducting the arbitrations, the character of the judges and their decisions, are all traced by Mr. Lloyd in a fair-minded and discriminating way. The chapter on "A New Song of the Shirt" is most instructive, as setting forth the effectual destruction of "sweating" which the law has produced, and the general improvement in the condition of women workers. Mr. Lloyd does not claim that New Zealand, in its limited sphere, has solved the great industrial problems for the world; but he holds, and rightly we think, that it has pointed the way and shown the spirit in which the solution must be found. We heartily commend the book to all students of the industrial and social problems now engaging the attention of all serious minds.

Where Christianity has Failed

A gentleman of large experience and great clearness of thought, who is spending his summer on Gerrish Island, Maine, writes us as follows:

"It is most discouraging, and a very serious imputation upon our present Christianity, to see the acquiescence of even our best and most cultivated people in this war policy.

"Here we are at the mouth of this beautiful river, looking out upon the ocean dotted with the white sails of a peaceful commerce. Between us and Portsmouth are the remains of several forts and earthworks, built at great expense, never used, and now falling into ruin. And yet the government is now building another large fort, at very great cost, probably several millions, withdrawing several hundred men from useful and productive employment from three to five years. . . .

"At a large navy yard near by they are repairing some old vessels of very little use when repaired. There are also two Spanish hulks captured during the late war, of no use, which should be returned to the Spanish government.

"The whole community hereabouts, summer visitors and natives, are deeply excited by several warships sent down here to assist at a race of one of them for a purse of several hundred thousand dollars. All of this money is to be wrung out of our people, already overtaxed, and, as it seems to me, for no use whatever.

"Our country is now so populous, so rich, so ingenious, that no other nation would attack it, provided only that we treat them with the honesty and civility which we exercise among ourselves.

"It is painful to see the indifference among educated and nominally Christian people on this subject. They assent to the proposition that it is all wrong, but shake their heads and say it always was so and probably always will be so, can do nothing about it, are pleased to see their country equal to others on the field of battle and as a naval power. They pray daily, hear 'peace and good-will' proclaimed weekly in the churches, but are ready to have money voted to conquer the Spaniards, Filipinos, Boers and Chinese.

"In the minds of sensible people Christianity has become Hypocrisy and a Failure, at least among nations. This has been well shown by Prof. Henry Sedgewick of England in the *Atlantic* for May, which I wish you would review. Excuse my long letter."

* * *

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